

THE ELECTRIFY AFRICA ACT

H.R. 2548

“...the Obama Administration should follow the script outlined in the bipartisan Electrify Africa Act and allow for more invests in a variety of energy sources.” – **CHRIS PRANDONI, DIRECTOR, AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM**

THE PROBLEM: Lack of electricity is keeping millions of African consumers and businesses in the dark.

- In sub-Saharan Africa, more than 580 million people do not have access to electricity.
- More people die in Africa from a lack of access to electricity than HIV/AIDS and malaria combined.
- No electricity means no pumps to distribute clean water, no direct heat to cook food, no power to preserve vaccines, and no electronics to communicate.
- Africa's lack of electricity is one of the biggest constraints to economic growth, and U.S. – Africa trade.

THE SOLUTION: Help save lives in Africa by promoting Africa's potential.

- + The “Electrify Africa Act” (H.R. 2548), will improve access to affordable and reliable electricity in sub-Saharan Africa by creating a comprehensive U.S. Government approach to electricity projects in the region that **encourages private sector investment**.
- + The bill **helps create U.S. jobs** by supporting the development of African economies. In 2012, the U.S. exported more than \$22 billion worth of goods to sub-Saharan Africa. An electrified Africa would buy more U.S. goods and services.
- + Unlocking this constraint on African economic growth **means a continent less reliant on aid**.
- + The bill **promotes an all of the above approach to electricity** that includes natural gas, clean coal, and hydroelectricity.
- + The CBO estimates that the bill **will save the U.S. Treasury \$86 million**.
- + Electrify Africa **imposes permanent reform on the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)**. This bill focuses OPIC on promoting electricity in Africa, forces oversight, demands transparency and makes the OPIC board bipartisan.
- + Where the United States has left a void for economic investment, China has stepped in to direct nearly \$2 billion to African energy projects. This bill **will counter China's growing commercial and strategic influence**.

“There is every reason for Republicans to support efforts that encourage economic independence, strengthen trading partners and compete with Chinese influence in a vital region.” – **MICHAEL GERSON, WASHINGTON POST**

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PREPARED BY HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN ED ROYCE

